THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 19, NO. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

The state fish and wildlife agencies in the 13 northeastern states formed an association years ago to facilitate coordination of fish and wildlife management within the Northeast region. Maryland is an active member. This association has several technical committees of state biologists working on various issues, including deer, turkey, furbearers and habitat management. The committee I am a member of is the Northeast Endangered Species & Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee. We work on regional nongame wildlife and endangered species issues.

Our most recent accomplishment was the development of a list of wildlife species of regional conservation concern. The purpose of the list was to identify those wildlife species that warrant coordinated regional conservation attention by the state agencies and others. Some of these species warrant attention by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for possible endangered species listing. Others need conservation attention so that their populations do not continue to decline to the point where they warrant federal listing.

All 13 northeastern states have their own endangered species lists. States generally list species at risk of disappearing from within their boundaries, which include species on the periphery of their range (such as Swainson's Warbler in Maryland). This is warranted, but through this process core populations often receive little conservation attention. One of the purposes of the newly developed list was to include species whose core populations occur in the Northeast and may be at risk.

The list includes 15 species of mammals, 23 birds, 15 reptiles, 12 amphibians, 34 fish, and 11 freshwater mussels. It does not include species already listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, nor species endemic to only one northeastern state. These later species are already receiving conservation attention. Species were listed based on the risk of regional extinction, suspected population declines but with lack of data to substantiate such, the global population occurs primarily in the Northeast and may be at risk, or because of special circumstances.

The following birds are considered of regional conservation concern:

American Bittern
Appalachian Bewick's Wren*
Bicknell's Thrush*
Black Tern

(continued on page 3, column 1)

MOS Conference 1999

by Lou DeMouy, MOS Conference Chairman

It's coming! The annual MOS conference will be on the weekend of May 14-16, 1999, in beautiful Calvert County, Maryland. This year's conference will offer an array of activities for all tastes and interests — field trips, water birding, natural history forays, displays by local artists, a book store, silent auction, and plenty more. Our speaker, Greg Miller from Calvert County, will recount his adventures in establishing one of the all-time listing years for birders in the United States.

As always, the weekend offers an opportunity to meet with long-time MOS birding buddies. This year has an added attraction. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) will join with MOS chapters from Anne Arundel county and Jug Bay in co-hosting the conference. SMAS will play a major role in preparing field trips, identifying local artists, and generally supporting a successful visit to Southern Maryland.

This issue of the *Yellowthroat* has a brochure and registration form for the conference. Be sure to look for the brochure and make your reservations early. I hope to see you there.

MOS State Web Site Has a New Home

We hope you have already noticed, but if not, the MOS State Web Site has moved to a new location. You can reach it through the old URL, after admiring our "new home" graphics, but may wish to add a bookmark in your browser for the new location. We now sport our very own personalized URL, so you can easily remember where we are:

http://www.mdbirds.org/

Some of our chapters have also relocated. You can find the new Cecil Bird Club web site at:

http://www.udel.edu/cecilbirds/

and the Montgomery County Chapter at:

http://www.mdkinc.com/mccbird/index.html

Chapter Chatter

by Martha Waugh

Jug Bay Has Big Plans for You! — The Jug Bay Chapter is already hard at work with the Anne Arundel Bird Club and the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Audubon Society to make this year's annual meeting at Solomons Island truly special. The Audubon Chapter is a large and active one and its members are enthusiastically supporting this first ever MOS annual meeting in Southern Maryland. Gary Fenner of Jug Bay is recovering at home from a recent heart attack and Betty Porter is recuperating in Florida from surgery, but they are both involved in this project. Dale Johnson, conference coordinator, urges anyone who wants to volunteer to lead walks, staff the check-in desks, or work on all the tasks that make things go smoothly, to call her at 410-867-7743. Dale is excited about the plans and says the area is wonderful for non-birders as well as for birders. Families with children will find there are lots of activities for all age groups. Be sure to reserve that week-end – May 14,15, and 16, 1999!

Allegany Chapter Supports Garrett County Projects — The Allegany Chapter

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THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT
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For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the March/April 1999 issue are:

March-May Calendar Activities:
January 25, 1999

All Other Submissions:
February 1, 1999

A Letter To MOS Members

December 3, 1998

Dear Friend of Maryland's Birdlife:

Maryland Partners in Flight (PIF) is a partnership of organizations and individuals committed to the conservation of Neotropical Migratory Landbirds and their habitat through monitoring, management, research and education. Formed in 1993 and based on a national model, PIF works through its committees (Habitat Management, Research, Inventory and Monitoring, and Education) to advance the cause of migratory landbird conservation.

This past summer, I agreed to be chair of the Inventory and Monitoring Committee, following in Jim McCann's footsteps. Jim worked off and on with a dedicated group of individuals to develop "species ranking scores" (to use in the prioritization of conservation efforts), the Garrett County "mini-atlas" and other projects. It has been some time, however, since the committee was truly active.

I need your help. Partners in Flight is only as strong as the contribution of its participants. This is a call for committee members for the Inventory and Monitoring committee. The only requirements are an interest in migratory bird conservation and a willingness to spend some (frequently non-birding) time towards this cause. The committee would meet every month or two, generally at a location in the Baltimore-Washington area, with times and places dictated by the availability of the participants.

Although some experience related to migratory bird inventory and monitoring efforts are a plus for committee membership, they are not needed to make a contribution. Many individuals have experience through the atlas project, Christmas Bird Counts, and similar efforts to monitor the species about which we are concerned. The only requirement is a desire to participate. Former members are especially welcomed for the historical perspective they can bring.

As for the particular duties of the committee, I have attached a copy of its strategic plan, developed in 1995, following this letter. I believe an appropriate starting place, given the clean slate I and perhaps others bring to the table, is to reexamine the fundamental role of the committee given its four or so years of existence.

Please contact me (by phone, e-mail or letter) if you are interested in helping. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Hoffman
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act Coordinator
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Ave., E-4
Annapolis, MD 21401
E-mail: Mhoffman@dnr.state.md.us
Phone: 410-260-8449

INVENTORY AND MONITORING COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN (1994-1999)

Goal 1. Develop and maintain a coordinated database management approach to neotropical migratory landbird (NML) inventory and monitoring efforts in Maryland.

Objective A. Develop and maintain a core database consisting of the MD NML lists, concern scores, habitat associations, species status, and information on population trends and distribution.

Objective B. Develop data management standards and procedures for NML inventory and monitoring activities in Maryland.

Objective C. Promote and encourages the use of data management standards and procedures for all NML inventory and monitoring activities in Maryland.

Objective D. Disseminate core data and other inventory and monitoring information to all interested parties.

Goal 2. Develop and implement a statewide inventory and monitoring strategy to ensure that NML populations in Maryland are adequately inventoried and monitored.

Objective A: Determine which species/species groups are inadequately inventoried or monitored at the state level and within each physiographic area.

Objective B. Produce a list of high-priority inventory and monitoring needs to be addressed over the next five years.

Objective C. Establish inventory and monitoring activities that address high-priority needs.

Objective D. Help facilitate other NML inventory and monitoring activities in Maryland.

DNR Reports . . .

(continued from page 1, column 1)

Canada Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Common Tern
Golden Eagle
Golden-winged Warbler
Harlequin Duck*
Henslow's Sparrow
Least Tern
Loggerhead Shrike*
Long-eared Owl
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Harrier
Pied-billed Grebe
Red Knot
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Sedge Wren
Short-eared Owl
Upland Sandpiper
Whip-poor-will

Four of the species (those with the asterisks) are recommended for federal endangered species considerations. However, not all of these species warrant threatened or endangered species listing by either the feds or the states. In fact, many of these deserve conservation actions but their populations are still at levels above endangerment. The hope is that the state agencies develop programs to address the needs of these species while there is still time. Our committee is now working at developing these conservation strategies.

Chapter Chatter

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has donated $200 to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in Garrett County to build two platforms along Deep Creek Lake for potential Osprey nests. The Chapter hopes that these new Deep Creek homesites will attract some Osprey seasonal residents. The Chapter also donated $200 to the Salem Children's Trust, Inc. in response to an NAWCA grant request. The funds will be used for the Wolf Swamp Habitat Restoration Project in Garrett County. The Wolf Swamp borders the Salem Children's Trust property and the project leaders hope to both preserve the swamp and make it more accessible to nature lovers by building board walks. On October 24, the Chapter hosted 53 members at the annual dinner. The speaker was Jon Boone, an MOS member, who presented a slide lecture on the "Birds of Garrett County."

Caroline Club Bands Owls — David Brinker, Maryland's Division of Natural Resources (DNR) saw-whet owl man, moved the banding station from Horsehead in Grasonville to Tuckahoe State Park in Caroline County. At his request, the Caroline Chapter donated money toward getting new nets. Danny Poet, chapter president, has been helping Wanda Cole of DNR in banding. So far, the new site has banded seven Saw-whet and two Screech Owls. Danny also reports that he spotted eight Fox Sparrows in the woods near his home in Queen Anne's County, his all-time high.

MOS Members Bird North Dakota in June — Two vans full of Montgomery and Anne Arundel birders hit North Dakota last June. Jane Farber, Jeanne Lacerte, Judy McCartney, Lydia Schindler, and Naomi Ulmer are Montgomery members. They were joined by a former member, Scott Stoner, now of Albany. The leaders, Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, are from Anne Arundel, as is Sue Ricciardi. The group concentrated on the western half of North Dakota, including the famous Badlands. Focusing on sparrows, they found 15 species, including Baird's, Clay-colored, LeConte's, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed plus Lark Sparrows, Lark Buntings, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. They had four wrens, including Sedge, Marsh, and Rock. Despite Hal's best efforts, the elusive Yellow Rail was heard but not seen. Lydia reflected that if you are going to be disappointed in seeing a rail, "..make it a Yellow Rail— sunshine and dewdrops and a concert of bird song sure beat the midnight hours and mosquitoes of Elliott Island." They did see a local specialty, Sprague's Pipit, and are convinced that the Least Flycatchers there speak North Dakotan: "You bet!"

Birding Couple Celebrates 50 Years of Marriage — Mike and Margaret Chonko of Cumberland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October and were saluted by the Allegany Chapter. They were married in Bangor, Maine where Mike was in college and have lived in Maryland and been MOS members for about 20 years. Mike walks his dog along Ebbetts Creek, a Potomac tributary near their home, and feeds crack corn to about 100 ducks there. He has Wood Ducks nesting in the trees along the creek, Great Blue Heron, and Kingfisher. November 22 and 23, he saw a Woodcock. Mike carves ducks and decoys and has even branched out into the mystic animal world. He produced a 3-1/2 ft. dragon to grace the new building of his high school in Brunswick, Maine, home of the Brunswick Dragons.

Birds Eat Well in Anne Arundel County — The Anne Arundel Chapter joins with the Friends of Quite Waters Park annually to sell bird seed as a fund raiser for both groups. They plan the sales in early to mid-November and again in early February. Each sale averages around 12,000 pounds. Volunteers from both organizations supply the "seed-moving" power. Al Haury of the Anne Arundel Club maintains 16 bluebird boxes in the Park.

Kent County Has a Busy Season — The Kent County Chapter displayed bluebird boxes and distributed plans for building boxes at the Chestertown Wildlife Show. Jim Gruber, with the help of others, showed reports and pictures of the Birdbanding Station in Queen Anne's County. Jim netted and banded a Clay Colored Sparrow there in early September, possibly a record for Queen Anne's County. The Chapter joined with members of the Chester River Association to explore the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge and all its different habitats that offer great birding on the Eastern Shore. The party of about 15 had good opportunities to study water birds at close range.

Howard Countian Stunned by An Eagle — Mike Kerwin, president of the Howard County Chapter, has been volunteering to teach a class in birding at the Burleigh Manor Middle School Outdoor Education program for the last seven years. Each year all 220 children in the 6th grade chaperoned by about 50 teachers and parents go to Camp Letts on the Rhode River

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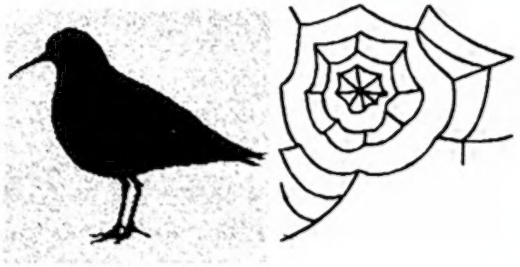
Birds on the Web



Up and up and away....
by Fran Saunders

Did your New Year's resolution include a promise to treat yourself to that special birding trip? If so, you can find good resources on the WWW to help you select and plan your tour. Today we'll be surfing around the web looking at the various sites tour operators have prepared to entice us on a fabulous (and hopefully bird rich) journey. Mind you, this is merely an exploratory adventure to show you what's available out there, and to give you ideas for finding additional information. We won't be discussing the trips themselves or offering any recommendations for selecting a tour.

You can research your next trip in several ways. First, there are many tour operators on line. These include the large, well-known international operators, as well as many noteworthy local organizations. Some you may want to try are:

Victor Emanuel:	http://www.ventbird.com/index2.htm
Wings	http://www.widdl.com/wings/
Field Guides, Inc.	http://www.fieldguides.com/
Focus on Nature	http://www.focusonnature.com/index.htm
Raptours!	Included in the Focus on Nature site
Bird Treks	http://www.birdtreks.com/

Most of the sites provide the same information. You can find out about the company, its leaders and trips. Sometimes up to date news is provided in an online newsletter. Tours are usually organized by date and geographical area, although not all will give you day by day itineraries online. Searching for a trip may be as easy as filling out a form. Online registration is provided by some. Some unique features include: travel desk information for independent birders offered by Field Guides, top ten species by location and "speaker" information on Bird Treks, the marvelous online catalog reproduction for Wings, search engines that allow key word, leader or species searches on the Wings and VENT sites, and excellent trip tips/FAQs, also on the VENT site. VENT plans to add "testimonial" in the future.

Go to Yahoo! And find the category "Business and Economics: Companies: Travel Tour Operators: Birdwatching" for additional ideas as well as a number of foreign companies.

In addition to these, though, you can find additional data by exercising a little creativity in your searches. For instance, many locales have their own web sites. Refuges and parks can be easily located by searching on the name of the facility. But don't limit yourself to these government-run facilities. For instance, if you are looking for information on touring the King Ranch area in Texas you can go straight to two sites, one of which is maintained by the King Ranch itself (http://furff.tamu.ed/~king and http://Kingsville.org . Independent tour guides have joined the online trek, and you can find people such as Arizona's Stuart Healy (http://www.aztrogon.com) through your keyboard. In both cases, enter the name of the facility or tour guide in your preferred search engine.

Other good sources of information are sites maintained by prominent state and local birding organizations. Many, such as the ABA, and Massachusetts and NJ Audubon, offer a wide-variety of trips. Our local Audubon Naturalist Society does the same.

Don't forget to check for birding festival sites. These web pages are usually are usually included in the much larger sites designed by a municipality's Convention/Visitors Bureau or Chamber of Commerce. We recently located information about the Rio Grande Birding Festival in this way, and although we could not register online, we conveniently e-mailed the organizer and received s-mail information within a week.

If trip information is not included on the web site, you can usually e-mail the webmaster for additional information. Although webmasters rarely provide this information directly, they will forward your note to the responsible individual.

I am sure many of you are asking, "But, hey, where are the pelagics?" While researching this column I came across many wonderful sites about pelagic birding and tours. I will be sharing this with you next time.

Okay, then, save this for a rainy day and go out and bird! As always, the links for the major web sites mentioned here are provided on the MOS State Web Site located at http://www.mdbirds.org/. Have a great winter season and we'll be back to surf again in a couple months!

The 1998 Texas Classic—Part II

by Marshall Iliff

ed. note: this material has been culled from a series of messages that Marshall posted on MDOsprey, the Maryland Birding Listserv, and is reproduced here with his permission. Our congratulations go out to a Maryland boy made good! Way to go, Marsh!

The saga continues...

12:01, May 1: We are standing in the pitch dark in a high wind near Anahuac NWR trying to hear the whispery song of Seaside Sparrows that were there the DAY prior. Who even knows if they sing at night down here? (they do). Needless to say, no sparrows. We curve around down the long dirt road and go into Anahuac NWR proper. Barn Owl, Purple Gallinule, Black Rail, (dare we say Yellow Rail), or Seaside Sparrow would all be new for our big list (standing now at about 255). A few minutes braving the cool breeze and a Barn Owl sounded off. We deemed the rest unlikely or impossible, and decided to try to hear the nocturnal call of a Canada Goose I had had on a farm pond in the far North section of coast (and WAY out of the way) and try to make it to our dawn site before dawns light. Both drivers still awake (I was not) shouldn't have been and admitted to seeing various hallucinations "pop out of the road". Scary. In any event, my recall was imperfect in the dark night, and I'm not sure we ever got near the pond. If we did, no goose was feeling talkative. Our timing was off and we found ourselves behind schedule as dawn was breaking. We had planned to go easily from the north part of the route to the south, but now might mix it up a it. My only Hairy Woodpecker in my week of scouting that section of the route had been at Martin Dies State Park. the day before, so we opted to check for that first. A quick drive through, a lot of tapping on trees and Barred Owl imitations got us needed species like Barred Owl (well after dawn), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker and Pileated Woodpecker, along with Swainson's Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary and Pine warblers. No Hairy Woodpecker to our dismay, but the clock was ticking and certain other stakeouts had to be hit on schedule (Red-cockadeds are difficult long after dawn). Along the way, a Brown Thrasher flashed across the road and saved some headache later - I had found no good location for that species and migrants were surely almost totally passed through at this point. First we hit my Louisiana Waterthrush stream, where the bird was no longer singing, but thankfully gave a few quick chip notes for us before we turned and sprinted (literally) back down the trail. So it was on to the Red-cockaded nest trees, where Bachman's Sparrow and American Goldfinch cooperated as well, though Brown-headed Nuthatches were keeping silent. We ran into our arch rivals there, and to Ned, their look of despair indicated that we might be in better shape than we thought. The latest leeks from the administration indicated that we were up by two species, or neck and neck, depending on which leek you believed. Lacking only the nuthatch, we headed out (expecting to pick it up along the way). As we slowed for our first turn, a flicker called. A complete surprise, this was a bird I had missed in my week of scouting up there, despite spending three days in that very area! Bonus bird! A short stop just thereafter garnered the nuthatch, and two quickies after that got Prairie Warbler and Red-headed Woodpecker. Then we headed out to Lake Sam Rayburn where I had found Belted Kingfisher (always tough, even on three-day-Big-Days, it was missed by the Mac Attack). Two Wood Ducks that Ned spotted flying far out over the Lake were a save (our best spots had failed to produce thus far) but Bald Eagle (a bonus we hoped for there) was a miss. On the way out, a desperation kingfisher stop produced a calling bird like clockwork. All reasonable targets achieved, we dropped south into Jasper to clean out my best scouting discovery of the day before: a residential bird feeding station with PINE SISKINS!!! A total surprise when I found them, we ticked one easily on the thistle feed (the only one of the Classic) and resolved to spend a little spare time trying for American Robin (purported to nest in Jasper, I had not found one the previous day). Luck was on our side again. Just before leaving town Ned suggested we pull into the cemetery as a last ditch effort for the robin. Andy picked one out far in the back - a gorgeous adult male. You've never seen such excitement over a robin - I thought Andy was kidding at first! We spent a few more minutes back at Martin Dies State Park for the Hairy Woodpecker, to no avail.

With all ducks in a line in the northernmost part of the route, we dropped as quickly as four wheel would carry us, to Beaumont, where a few lamed Snow Geese on the pond in front of the hospital (not surprisingly) had not left. Fish Crow there too...got it, Got It, GOT IT!!! A quick cruise through "Cattail Marsh" (a series of sewage ponds and marshland with a system of dykes in between), produced just one new bird - Baird's Sandpiper. The location is a great one, but and I was surprised we didn't add more there, but our list was pretty complete by that point. From then (about 11:00 a.m.) on we were filling holes and connecting the dots, going from stakeout to stakeout and hoping for a little luck in between. We knew we'd need our share of it to hit the 300 we had our sights set on. A quick turn off Rte. 10 found the Hudsonian Godwits and Buff-breasted Sandpipers in flooded fields, which coincidentally, had been the location I had scouted first upon arriving two weeks prior. The flooded field situations there change daily, and I had seen four different fields full of shorebirds over my four visits to the site - but fortunately the productive field that Ned had found the day before was still good. With two more shorebirds under our belt, we bolted for Anahuac —electing to skip the field where Ned had seen a Glossy Ibis (pretty rare in Texas) the day before. Our Seaside Sparrow location did produce in the day (though was a bit out of the way), and a few Purple Gallinules were out and about at Anahuac, as we had hoped. Not much else to get, so we rolled on to High Island to try to clean up a few migrants. No Yellow-bellied Flycatcher there, no Orange-crowned Warbler, no Philadelphia Vireo, and no Cape May Warbler. In fact, we got nothing new. It was clearly a pretty poor day for migrants...so we cut our losses and tried to make the Bolivar ferry, figuring on jumping across to Galveston, getting the stakeout Pacific Loon (the Red-throated apparently had left), coming BACK across on the ferry, and spending all our extra time pouring through the gulls and terns coming to roost on Bolivar Flats. Our final hours were the best.

With a few spare minutes, we walked the marsh grasses and kicked up some Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows fairly easily. No other bonuses distracted us, and we managed to tear ourselves away from the birdy saltmarsh and head back to the ferry. Would you believe we were the LAST car on?!? We scanned constantly on the ferry ride across. At one point my binoculars strayed above horizon and fell on...a frigatebird (female/immature). We hadn't even realized frigates were a possibility so early. Apparently they are, but the thrill was not dulled. Nothing else (no Bonaparte's Gull) on the ferry, but we were all still high from the frigatebird. Mental state must go a long way...on the drive through Galveston Ned and I picked up on a distant dove on a wire. We whipped around, pulled up the street, and confirmed our suspicions - Eurasian Collared-Dove!!!! We took photos and made sketches, with twinges of worry that the judge panel might view this species with caution - since it wasn't (and still isn't) on

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A Texas Adventure, Part II

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the official Texas list. As we pulled up at what I thought was a secret viewing point for the Pacific Loon, we met the Mac Attack, who were all obviously riding high after visiting Bolivar Flats. Tony Leukering couldn't keep quiet, competition or no, and spilled the beans promptly. They had just had a NODDY (Brown?) at the flats. Feeling indebted, we called them over to peek through our scopes at the Pacific Loon that we (eventually) found close to a mile away. An eye for an eye, and we were off to Bolivar with our enthusiasm redoubled. The return ferry trip had a male frigatebird! Nothing new though. By our calculations, we needed 5 more species. We knew we'd get Piping Plover. We were counting on the noddy remaining for us. Lesser Black-backed was a near certainty among the big flocks at dusk. The extra two species could be anything...but would have to be really good - Bonaparte's Gull, a jaeger, a rare tern, Curlew Sandpiper.

We arrived and scanned frantically for the noddy. Nothing. No good gulls, no noddy. Piping Plover was present as expected. Finally Ned cried out "want to see the noddy". We all three quickly got on the bird flying up the beach towards us, and despite its worn, brownish plumage, immediately realized it was a Black Noddy!!!! The cap was sharply defined and white, the bird was small, and the bill was thin and droopy. Jon Dunn had found the second state record for Black Noddy about 15 miles to the north about 2 weeks prior, and we presumed this was the same bird. It was a life bird for all three of us (what a way to close the competition, huh?). I was able to crawl right up on it on my belly and take some close range pictures (with 300 and 600 mm lenses), but finally trudged my muddy self back to my scope and started working the gulls again. As more and more birds came into roost, the bonus birds appeared one by one. First, a first-year Iceland Gull revealed itself from the crowd. A spectacular bird for Texas, this bird may have been the same as the one I had two weeks prior. Then a first-winter Great Black- backed Gull appeared amidst the growing throng of birds, and, finally, as daylight slipped away, a third-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull emerged. Number 300!!! We kept the vigil until dusk, but no Bonies, no jaegers, nothing more. Still we didn't throw in the towel, and tried several Black Rail marshes before turning in our lists, details on our great birds there at the end, shooting the breeze with the competition, and hitting the hay.

Very cool. The awards banquet the next night was good fun, the highlight of which were the youth teams which reported on their successes over the several days. The under 13 teams (Roughwings) obviously were the best! Great to see such youth participation. Ned, Andy, and I all got our start at that age, and it was appropriate to close the competition reminding ourselves that we began in the same place.

So...to make a long story short, we won!!! The fearsome Compaq computers team ended with 297 species (we had been docked two, since our details on the Short-tailed Hawk were deemed unacceptable and the Collared- Dove was not included since it was not yet on the state list (raving about this could occupy another four pages!). The irony of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker tip becomes painfully clear, since they ended up losing by...one bird. The Mac Attack team had had a poor morning on the last day, but had found Texas' first King Eider the day prior. Between the eider and the noddy, there was no argument that their list made up in quality what it lacked in quantity (which wasn't much - they ended with 285). The King Eider/Black Noddy combination was almost certainly a first ever. Best of all was probably Oscar Carmona's result from the Lower Rio Grande Valley - their one day total (in the Rio Grande Valley only!) of 231 narrowly missed the record one day count for the country (when teams are not restricted to a certain region of Texas). A truly fantastic total, their result received a well-deserved standing ovation at the awards.

My thanks go out to the Texas Classic staff, the hospitality of the Texas birders and Texans as a whole, to my teammates, and to all those who taught me to tell a Royal Tern from a Caspian over the years. You know who you are!

New MOS Field Card Available

Confused about what birds have been seen in Maryland? Can't get the new ordering of species straight in your head? And what is this "Blue-headed Vireo"? We have the answer for you! The MOS has prepared a new field checklist of the birds of Maryland, based on the latest official list of the MD/DC Records Committee and following the ordering and naming conventions of the new 7th Edition of the **AOU Check-List of North American Birds**. The tri-fold field card fits neatly in a shirt pocket, has room for five different trips, and copious space for field notes and sketches.

The cards will be available for sale from ABA Sales, from the ANS Bookstore in Chevy Chase, from your individual chapter, or directly from the MOS Executive Secretary. If you order from our Executive Secretary please note that the cards are available from him only in quantities of 100 and that the cost is $12.00 per hundred (including postage and handling).

Start your new birding year right! Order yours today! To order directly from MOS, send your check for $12 per 100 (made out to the MD Ornithological Society) to:

Larry Fry
Executive Secretary, MOS
1202 Ridge Road
Pylesville, MD 21132-1407

Chapter Chatter

(continued from page 3, colum 2)

in Anne Arundel County for two or three days of outdoor fun and education. This year Mike took a group of 45 on a birding hike. At the river they saw an Osprey wheel to the right and begin to fly right toward them. Mike shouted "Its an Osprey and he has the biggest fish I've ever seen an Osprey carry." The bird had also captured the children's undivided attention. The magnificent adult Osprey continued to fly straight toward the group but turned sharply to the left and began to fly up the shore line of the small inlet. Suddenly, a huge black mass exploded out of the trees and attacked the Osprey, turned, and attacked again. On the third attack, the Osprey lost its grip on the fish. The black mass, an immature Bald Eagle on closer inspection, broke off the attack and swooped down to the water, grabbed the fish and flew off. Mike reports, "There was a moment of stunned silence, and if you know 6th graders, you know this is truly the moment to cherish. They had witnessed a memorable event, a life memory, and they knew it." Mike adds a note to us all, "Only once in my life have I ever seen an Eagle take a fish from an Osprey. Get involved, share your passions with others, and you, too, may enjoy that moment of stunned silence."

Baltimore Bird Club Provides Adventures for Children — The Baltimore Bird Club has been using its $200 grant from the MOS Education Committee for the past three years to provided six sets per year of *Audubon Adventures* to six different Baltimore City elementary school classrooms. Audubon Adventures is a magazine of the National Audubon Society that attempts to provide a "field trip within the classroom." It targets young children, grades 3-5, with information, stories, pictures, and puzzles about natural history. Excerpts from a teacher's thank you letter include, "The children love the 'newspapers.'...I have saved the issues and use them whenever they fit in both science and language arts... Currently, we are studying the life cycles of butterflies and frogs, so I have three different issues for the children to use... The children did a big unit on birds in the fall when we made very good use of the papers."

"Happy Owl-oween" Bird Walk — The Cecil Bird Club reaped the rewards of their recent publicity efforts when a "mind-boggling" 70 people attended their Turkey Point "Happy Owl-oween" Owl Walk. (Last year, the same walk attracted four.) Scott Powers successfully called in Screech, Great Horned and Saw-whet Owls. Some foxes were even intrigued by his calls. At one point five Screech Owls were calling at once. According to Leslie Fisher "It was quite a magical scene, 70 people in a moonlit meadow, surrounded by forest, all in a reverent silence to hear the owls call."

Baltimore Club Members See Mount McKinley — Jim Highsaw and Linda Prentice completed a nine-day trip to Alaska in late July-early August 1998. They visited Potter's Marsh and the Coastal Trail near Earthquake Park (included in Scher's Field Guide to Birding in Anchorage). They spotted Arctic Tern, Red-necked Grebe, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Black-Billed Magpie, Common Redpoll, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Lesser Yellowleg, and Semi-palmated Plover. They were scheduled to ride the Alaska Railroad to Denali National Park but took the bus after a train derailment interrupted service. They saw Willow Ptarmigan, a Golden Eagle nest with young, Common Loon, Surf Scoter, Mew Gull, Pintails, Boreal Chickadees, and Greater White-fronted Goose. They also enjoyed spectacular views of Mount McKinley and saw larger animals (grizzlies, caribou, moose, Dall sheep, and red fox). On their last day in Anchorage, they found a Wilson's Warbler in their host's yard.

Howard County Crowns Queen of the Sparrows — Bonnie Ott, Howard's long-time and much-appreciated director of club field trips, was crowned "Queen of the Sparrows," complete with a tiara, by the chapter president, Mike Kerwin, at the monthly meeting on November 12. Bonnie is passionate about sparrows and seeks them constantly. On a recent field trip to the University of Maryland Central Farm in Howard County, birders spotted an unusual bird. Bonnie almost instantly identified it as a Harris Sparrow, despite its being a life bird for her. Subsequent observation verified her identification. On November 21, Bonnie received another reward: a Fox Sparrow in her yard, on the ground below her feeders. Bonnie says, "I'd been hoping for this bird for ten years." The Fox Sparrow became Number 164 on her life yard list.

Grant-Recipient Studies Bird Banding — Gemma Radko attended a week-long bird banding seminar July 11-18 at the Raystown Field Station at Juniata College, PA. She received grants from the Montgomery Chapter and the State MOS. The class was sponsored by the Institute for Bird Populations, and was designed to give participants an intensive, hands-on introduction to MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding. Gemma reports that the students were up before sunrise every day, banding in the field until noon. In the afternoon they had lecture sessions on MAPS protocol and avian plumages, molts, and breeding characteristics. By the end of the week, Gemma had banded a few birds, including a Chat. She is volunteering at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center with Deanna Dawson and at Jug Bay with Danny Bystrak. Gemma says her ultimate goal is to re-open Adventure as a MAPS station. If you're wondering what to get a young person in your life, Gemma received her first binoculars and a Golden Guide at the age of eight and joined the local Audubon Society when she was ten.

Caroline Chapter Works at the Pelot Sanctuary — Members of the Caroline Chapter spent Sunday afternoon, October 18, on their annual garbage pickup along the road by the Pelot Sanctuary, an MOS sanctuary located outside Greensboro on Drapers Mill Road. The sanctuary seems to attract a lot of garbage from passing vehicles. Along with the usual beer bottles, fast food garbage, and tires, Steve Westre found a gas tank wrapped up in barbed wire. Bill Scudder, the chair of the clean-up effort, repainted the sanctuary sign a few years ago and it seems to be holding up well. After the work, the MOSers enjoyed sitting back on the benches they had purchased and installed a few years ago in memory of Jerry and Roberta Fletcher. The Fletchers, both deceased, helped start MOS and began the Caroline Chapter along with a few others. The Chapter hopes to plant some native wild flowers around the Sanctuary sign and the benches in memory of Marvin Hewitt.

MOS Calendar of Events
January-March 1999

Friday, January 1

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Start Your New Year List. Join Darius and Paula on this half-day trip touring Howard County to start our new year lists off in style. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. For further information, contact the leaders, Darius and Paula Ecker, at 410-312-9165.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Earliest Bird. Jump start your 1999 year list at nearby hot spots. Everyone welcome (provided you can beat your New Year's Eve hangover) on this absolutely leaderless trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. For further information, contact Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764.

Thursday, January 7

MEETING. Frederick. Join us for the next in our continuing series of January programs: "Around the World with Stauffer Miller." 7:30 p.m. at the Frederick High School music room. For more information, call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088.

Friday, January 8

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "The Breeding Bird Survey, Trends in Bird Populations" by John R. Sauer. 8:00 p.m. at The Media Center, Annapolis Senior High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

MEETING. Cecil. Marilyn Wass of the DNR Wildlife Division in Bel Air will speak on Landscaping for Wildlife. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Anne's Parish House in North East. For more information, call Marcia Watson-Whitmyre at 410-398-0125.

MEETING. Harford. Bluebird Breeding Research presented by students from Aberdeen High School. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-452-8539.

Saturday, January 9

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. Carroll. Bring a dish & share not only our company but the fun as well. 8:00 p.m. til ... at the Yingling residence. For more info & directions, contact Sue Yingling at 410-876-8211.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. "The Seasons at Fair Hill - Winter". Join Scott Powers for a winter walk through the woods and fields of Fair Hill Natural Resources area for sparrows, raptors and whatever else we can find. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Gallaher and Big Elk Chapel Road. For more information call 410-658-2368.

Sunday, January 10

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. 5:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. Program will be a member's slide show. Register by Thursday, Jan 8 with Carolyn Webb, at 410-486-1217 or pwebb@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Thousands of gulls, possibly Lesser Black-backed, Iceland, and Black-headed. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the base of the dam, located at the bottom (east end) of Shures Landing Road. Dress warmly, scopes useful. For further information, contact the coordinator, Dave Webb, at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, finches, and possible Red-headed Woodpeckers. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the park visitor center. Bring a snack and a scope. Call the leader to determine trip status in the event of inclement weather. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-528-3848.

Wednesday, January 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Fallston. Relaxed, morning hike along Gunpowder Falls valley for winter woodland birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Fallston Park 'n' Ride on MD 152, just north of Harford Road (MD 147). For further information contact the leader, Russ Kovach, evenings at 410-679-0535.

Thursday, January 14

Meeting. Howard. "The Birds of Namibia in Southwestern Africa," by Hank Kaestner. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session/bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program at 8:00 p.m. For information call Mike Kerwin, 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Ecology of Saw-whet Owls in the Middle Atlantic" by DNR Field Biologist and Researcher David Brinker. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136.

Friday-Monday, January 15-18

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. North Carolina Outer Banks. Wintering ducks, geese, swans and shorebirds, loons, gannets. Search also for alcids and less common gulls. Reservations required. Limited to 16 people. Jim Green will co-lead. For reservations, trip and motel information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301-871-7990.

Friday, January 15

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Arizona and Other Places Out West" by L. T. Short. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday-Monday, January 16-18

FIELD TRIP. Howard. A three day weekend to bird the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. For further information, contact the leaders, Darius and Paula Ecker, at 410-312-9165.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Winter Birds in Washington County. We'll be looking for Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and whatever else proves to be around. Meeting place to be determined. For additional information, contact Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Saturday, January 16

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. George Washington Birthplace NM, VA. Popes Creek & Potomac River for waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Doug Forsell at 410-626-8486.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Feeder Tour. Morning tour of two homes of chapter members' for feeder watching and socializing. Space limited. For further information and reservations, call Bill McIntosh at 410-734-6517 by Wednesday, January 13. Make-up date is Saturday, January 23.

Sunday, January 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall at light pole 16 on NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. This is a countywide survey and we need lots of extra help. If you've never seen what Frederick County has to offer in the winter, you won't regret calling to be placed on a team or assigned a sector. Coordinator, David Smith at (410) 549-7082.

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons - New Design Road. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree sparrows and possible Loggerhead Shrike. Will include stop at Black Hill Reservoir, if conditions look good for waterbirds. For reservations and further information, contact the leader, Gail MacKiernan, at 301-989-1828.

Saturday, January 23

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Conowingo Dam, Harford County. Lots of gulls and a variety of other birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Carroll. Calling on all members to help with the count in your backyard, neighborhood or favorite birding spot in Carroll County. Anyone else ready & willing to help is more than welcome. Coordinate locations with Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031. Join our Tally Rally at 7 p.m. with an RSVP to Kathy Harden at 410-549-3344.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Conowingo Dam. Wintering waterbirds, particularly gulls, at site known for occurrence of rarities. No reservations needed, but contact leader or Mike Bowen (301-530-5764) for directions to dam site in Harford County. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the base of the dam in front of the pavilion and bathrooms. Bring scope and lunch, warm drinks. Car pooling from Montgomery County encouraged. Rick Blom will co-lead. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Sunday, January 24

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Capital Birding. (Joint with Northern Virginia Bird Club.) Selected sites from Georgetown to Mason Neck. Wintering waterfowl, gulls and raptors. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, where cross dikes intersect, along MacArthur Blvd. Bring lunch and scope. No reservations necessary, but call the leader if trip status is uncertain in the event of inclement weather. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-528-3848.

Tuesday, January 26

MEETING. Patuxent. "Adopt an Acre: Preservation of Neotropic Habitats" by George Jett. 7:45 p.m. in the Bio Science Building (011A) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

MONTHLY MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER Washington. Bring a dish to share and your own utensils, plates and drinks. This meeting will feature the Scales and Tales program offered by Park Ranger Mark Spurrier. The program will be educational and fun for children of all ages. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and our program will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. For further information, call Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Saturday, January 30

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Ocean City to Broadkill Marsh. Wintering waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ocean City Inlet parking lot. Bring scope, food and warm drinks. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Tuesday, February 2

MEETING. Baltimore. "Bird Watching's Top Ten Myths (more or less)" by Rick Blom. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, February 3

MEETING. Carroll. "Horseshoe Crabs In Maryland" by Thomas O'Connell. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. For more info, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, February 4

MEETING. Frederick. "50 Years of the Catoctin Christmas Count," by Mike Welch. 7:30 p.m. at the Frederick High School music room. For more information, call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088.

Friday, February 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Confessions of a 'Terned On' Biologist" by Jeff Spendelow. 8:00 p.m. at The Media Center, Annapolis Senior High School, 2700 Riva Road, Annapolis.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Owling in Southern Frederick County. Evening trip. We'll use tapes and flashlights to attract, hear and perhaps see Screech and other owls. Wear warm clothes and footwear and bring something warm to drink. Powerful flashlights would be useful, also. Meet at commuter parking lot just off I-270, Urbana Exit, at 6.30 p.m. Leader will establish a "snow date" if conditions are not likely to be clear and windless. Limited to 10 people. For reservations and additional details, contact the leader, Gary Nelson, at 202-686-7062.

Saturday, February 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. New Design Road and Lilypons. For Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, sparrows and hawks. Telescopes useful. Some walking in exposed, cold, windy fields; wear warm clothing and boots. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Security Boulevard Park & Ride at the east end of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cecil Waterfowl. Join Leslie Fisher on a tour of waterfowl hotspots in the Cecil County area. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the North East Acme parking lot. For more information call 4110-658-2427.

NEST BOX WORKSHOP. Harford. Pre-order from four different rough-cut, cedar designs, then assemble your box at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in Abingdon. Fee charged for materials. Call Randy Robertson at 410-273-9029 no later than Friday, January 8.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Maryland and Delaware Shore. Possible species include sea ducks, gannet, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Purple Sandpiper. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the MD 155 / I-95 commuter lot (Exit 89). All-day trip; bring lunch; scopes recommended. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Sunday, February 7

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Our annual trip to the Gettysburg area to look for Short-eared Owls and Red-headed Woodpeckers. We will be stopping for dinner somewhere in the area. Meet at the Rt. 66 Park 'n Ride at 3:30 p.m. Contact Bob Keedy at 301-733-7708, for details.

Wednesday, February 10

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Stifler Conservation Area. Morning hike for woodpeckers, kingfisher and winter songbirds in picturesque Deer Creek valley. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Darlington/Dublin VFW, on US 1 1/3 mile south of MD 136. For further information, contact the leaders, Jean and Larry Fry, at 410-452-8539.

Thursday, February 11

Meeting. Howard. "The Yellow Book and How to Use It," by Bob Ringler. Bring your copy of "Field List of the Birds of Maryland," or, buy one at our book store before the meeting. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session/bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program at 8:00 p.m. For information call Mike Kerwin, 410-461-2408.

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

MEETING. Montgomery. "Use of Telemetry in Raptor Studies" by field researcher Dr. Michael J. McGrady. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136.

Saturday-Monday, February 13-15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter Birding Trip, Ocean City and South for a variety of wintering birds. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Our annual weekend at the beach. Waterfowl & other wintering birds will be abundant this weekend on the eastern shore. Anyone interested, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109 as there are limited accommodations.

WEEKEND TRIP. Frederick. Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and area. Call for information and reservations with Mike Welch at 301-874-5828.

Saturday-Tuesday, February 13-16

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Presidents' Birthday Weekend (Joint trip with ANS), Delmarva Peninsula. Wilmington, DE to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Winter waterfowl, songbirds; hopefully white-winged gulls, eiders, Harlequin Ducks and Great Cormorants. Reservations required. Full details (directions, motels) will appear in the late 1998/early 1999 issues of ANS Naturalist News. For further information, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

Saturday, February 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cape Henlopen to Ocean City. Trip to Delaware coast and Ocean City in search of Scoters, Oldsquaw, Brant, Purple Sandpipers, Red-throated Loons, and Gannets. Eiders and Harlequin Ducks possible. Telescopes very useful. Meals bought on the road. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride at Beltway Exit 8. Optional meeting place: Cape May-Lewes Ferry parking lot at 10:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

Mid-winter Bird Count. Cecil. Call Gary Griffith to sign up for an area. 410-392-4491.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bradenbaugh Flats. Morning trip in northwestern Harford County for winter sparrows, larks, pipits, and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Jarrettsville Elementary School, on MD 23 half-mile west of MD 165. For further information, contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at 410-692-5905.

Wednesday, February 17

MEETING. Allegany. "Historical Ecology of Our Forests" by Dr. Durland Shumway and Dr. Gwen Brewer. 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building, 108 Washington St., Cumberland. For further information, contact Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

Friday, February 19

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding at Point Pelee, Canada" by Les Cobel. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, February 20

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Florence, New Jersey. Bring a lunch for this all-day trip to town on the Delaware River known for large flocks of gulls including many "white-wings". Scopes advisable. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 155 / I-95 commuter lot (Exit 89). For further information, contact Rick Cheicante (410-803-2712).

Tuesday, February 23

MEETING. Patuxent. "The Natural History of Chile" by Sid Jacobs. 7:45 p.m. in the Bio Science Building (011A) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

MEETING. Washington. Dave Harvey will talk about the Trinidad & Tobago trip he and Maureen took. We're sure to get an interesting overview from Dave. He can be counted on to bring us beautiful pictures and interesting anecdotes. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109, for more information.

Friday, February 26

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary for displaying American Woodcock. Meet at the New Market Shopping Center, Routes 75 and 144, just north of I-70, at 5:30 p.m. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088 for details.

Saturday, February 27

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Baltimore Harbor, Baltimore County for wintering waterfowl. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Kim Hudyma at 410-859-8490.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Black Marsh & North Point State Park. Morning trip to eastern Baltimore County hotspots of varied habitats and bird species. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 152 / I-95 Park & Ride (Exit 74). For further information, contact the leaders, Larry & Jean Fry, at 410-452-8539.

Sunday, February 28

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Falling Branch to Eden Mill. Morning hike along two stream valleys in northern Harford County. Varied habitats may turn up nice range of species, from Brown Creeper to Savannah Sparrow to Wood Duck. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Falling Branch section of Rocks State Park, on Falling Branch Road. For further information contact the leader, Debbie Bowers, at 410-692-9741

Tuesday, March 2

ANNUAL MEETING. Baltimore. "An Inventory of Neotropical Migrating Birds at Aberdeen Proving Grounds" by Jim McCann. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Wednesday, March 3

MEETING. Carroll. "Wildflowers" by Dave Pyle. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. For more info, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Baltimore). Timberdoodle Watch, Volume I. Dusk outings for displaying American Woodcock. Meet at 5:45 p.m. at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart along US 40. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Seitz, at 410-838-2150.

Thursday, March 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. Richard E. Heise. Jr. Annual Wildlife Program. "A Natural Celebration" by Jim Clark. 8:00 p.m. at Quiet Waters Park.

MEETING. Frederick. "Potomac Basin: Botanical Crossroads," by Bob Johnsson. Bob promises to mention a bird or two as well. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Frederick High School music room. For more information, call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088.

MOS Conference
May 14–16, 1999

Calvert County, Maryland
Holiday Inn Select Solomons

Hosted by
Jug Bay and Anne Arundel Chapters of the Maryland Ornithological Society
and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society

First Ever in Southern Maryland!

Explore the rich birding habitats surrounding our bay. *Witness* the diversity of life around estuaries where salt and fresh water mix.

Look for birds in a cypress swamp, on a sandy beach, over a fresh-water pond, on the Patuxent River, near the fossil cliffs, around archaeological digs, on a modern naval base, at a beautiful sculpture garden or over a lookout point of land.

Rediscover the colonial and maritime past. *Learn* the story of the colonial tobacco planters, a restored lighthouse, the oyster packing houses, a colonial city and the 19th century watermen who worked in this region's seafood and shipbuilding industry. *Explore* the rich archaeological and agricultural heritage.

Leap into the future and learn about nuclear power and ongoing estuarine research.

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Conference Program

(tentative)

Friday, May 14

12:00 noon	Registration begins
2:00 p.m.	Field trips begin
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Banquet
7:45–8:45 p.m.	Dinner speaker
9:00 p.m.	Owl trip

Saturday, May 15

4:45 a.m.	Pre-dawn walk
6:00–7:00 a.m	Morning field trips begin
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch break
1:00–1:30 p.m.	Afternoon field trips begin
5:30–6:30 p.m.	Wine and cheese party
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:45–9:00 p.m.	Business meeting/Elections
9:15 p.m.	Owl trip

Sunday, May 16

4:45 a.m	Pre-dawn walk
6:00–7:00 a.m	Morning field trips begin
11:00 a.m.	Check-out time
12:00 noon	Conference tally-up

Directions to the Conference

The Holiday Inn Select Solomons is located at the southern end of Calvert County where the Patuxent River enters the bay, roughly ˜ mile north of the Calvert Marine Museum. On Route 2–4 going south, look for the turn-off to Route 2, Solomons Island Road, at the Mobil Station and Woodburns of Solomons store on the east side of the road. If you're arriving from the West (St. Mary's and Charles Counties), go over the bridge at the Patuxent River and continue north to the turn-off to Solomons Island Road. The hotel address is 155 Holiday Drive, behind the Woodburns of Solomons store. The hotel telephone number is 1-800-356-2009 or 410-269-7923. A map with directions will be sent to you with your conference registration confirmation letter.

* * *

For further information: Contact Lou DeMouy (301-656-3146) or Dale Johnson (410-867-7743).

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Mckee-Beshers WMA, ˚ or full day. Wintering landbirds, some waterfowl. Part I: Meet at 7 a.m. at Seneca parking lot (end of Riley's Lock Rd.). Bird until around 1.30 p.m., then lunch in Poolesville. Part II: Bird from 3 p.m. until dark. Meet at 3 p.m. at Hughes Hollow Parking lot off River Rd. We'll bird the Hollow and Sycamore Landing, looking for landbirds, Barred Owl and wintering ducks, then (we hope!) finish with a Woodcock display at dusk. Bring folding chair if you want and 'scope to scan river. Reservations required for full or half day. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Green, at 301-258-7344.

Saturday, March 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Baltimore Harbor. Wintering waterfowl, gulls and ...? Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Harbor Hospital Center south parking lot off Hanover Street just south of the bridge. For further information, contact the leader, Mark Pemburn, at 410-467-4737.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rocks State Park. Good area along Deer Creek for woodpeckers, winter songbirds and possible Wild Turkey. Morning trip; meet at 7:30 a.m. at Forest Hill Elementary School, located on MD 24 just north of Jarrettsville Road. For further information, contact the leader, Harold Boling, at 410-803-1075.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Waterfowl, land birds. Meet at the visitor center at 8:00 a.m. Bring scope and snacks. For further information, contact the leader, Rob Gibbs, at 301-253-6903.

Tuesday, March 9

MEETING. Kent. "Bog Turtles" by Scott Smith of DNR. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown. For further information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Wednesday, March 10

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Baltimore). Timberdoodle Watch, Volume II. Dusk outings for displaying American Woodcock. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart along US 40. For further information, contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537.

Friday, March 12

MEETING. Cecil. Gerry Newman "the Bluebird Man" from Rising Sun MD. Will speak about.....Bluebirds. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Anne's Parish House in North East. For more information, call Marcia Watson-Whitmyre at 410-398-0125.

Saturday, March 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Centennial Lake, Columbia. Morning walk for early waterfowl and other early migrants and lingering winter residents. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the tennis courts at Centennial Lake. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Beginners Waterfowl at Bombay Hook NWR. Join Scott Powers for this full day trip around Bombay Hook and other local duck watering holes. We will stay to watch the Snow Geese returning for the night. Meet at the Elkton Dunkin Doughnuts at 7:30 a.m. For more information call 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Dulles Greenway Wetlands and Loudoun County. Meet at the Point of Rocks MARC station (Route 28, about ˘ mile east of Route 15) at 7:30 a.m. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088 for details.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Muddy Run WMA. 3/4 day tour of southern Lancaster County, PA hotspot for waterfowl, Bald Eagle, pipits, and loons. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Conowingo Visitors Center (US 1, 1/4 mile south of the Susquehanna River). For further information, contact Russ Kovach, evenings at 410-679-0535.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Jug Bay. (Joint trip with ANS) Highlights may include Rusty Blackbird, migrating Common Snipe and courtship display of Osprey. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Reservations required. For further information and driving instructions, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Sunday, March 14

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for Woodcocks. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Kathie Lambert at 410-867-4056.

Wednesday, March 17

MEETING. Allegany. "Bird Information on the Internet" by Dr. Gwen Brewer. 7:00 p.m. in Room 107, Tawes Hall, Frostburg State University. For further information, contact Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Baltimore). Timberdoodle Watch, Volume III. Dusk outings for displaying American Woodcock. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart along US 40. For further information, contact the leader, Mark Johnson, at 410-692-5978.

Friday, March 19

MEETING. Caroline. "Purple Martins" by Wanda Cole. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, March 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Pennsylvania Reservoirs Potluck Waterfowl trip. Meeting time and place TBA. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Join us for this day trip to Chesapeake Beach, Cove Point & Calvert Cliffs. We're bound to see gannets & other waterfowl. Don't forget a lunch. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Rt. 32 & I-70 Park & Ride. For more info, contact trip leader, Bob Ringler, at 410-549-6031.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Horsehead Wetlands Center. 8:30 a.m. For further information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern Maryland - Charles County Loop. Waterfowl, woodpeckers, sparrows and early migrants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Blockbuster Video, corner MD 5 and US 301.. Limited to 12 people. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, George Jett, 301-843-3524.

Sunday, March 21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Anne Arundel County. Wintering woodland birds and waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Wafi Rains, at 410-573-0352.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion. First in a series of casual self-guided spring walks at one of Baltimore's birding hot spots.

FIELD TRIP. Harford (joint with Carroll). Piney Run. Wintering and early spring migrant waterfowl and passerines. Hilly lakeside walk. Meet either at 7:30 a.m. at the MD 152 & I-95 Park & Ride (Exit 74), or at 9:00 a.m. at the park's entrance gate. For further information, contact the coordinator, Betsy Reeder, at 410-515-1556.

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

Tuesday, March 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Two or three hours and miles of walking, early departure possible. Some uneven terrain and steep dikes optional at far end. Spring migrant songbirds. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons possible after March. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Adelaide Rackemann, at 410-823-4709.

MEETING. Patuxent. "Cerulean Warblers" by Deanna Dawson. 7:45 p.m. in the Bio Science Building (011A) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Saturday-Sunday, March 27-28

Irish Grove weekend

Saturday, March 27

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Garrett County ponds for waterfowl. Meet at Parkside School in LaVale at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hill Reservoir. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake boathouse in Frederick. Call Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088 for more information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Morning trip for possible Pine Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Horned Grebe, and bay ducks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the post's MD 24 gate. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Sunday, March 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

Tuesday, March 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

C&O Canal Mid-Winter Bird Survey

by Norm Saunders

The Maryland-DC Audubon Council and the Maryland Ornithological Society, in conjunction with the National Park Service, announce the first-ever Mid-Winter Bird Survey for the C&O Canal in its entirety. The count is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 1999 and the intent is to cover the entire 185.5 mile length of the C&O Canal, from Washington, DC to Cumberland, MD. Data gathered will help assess the status of wintering bird populations in this "longest-but-thinnest" National Park, as well as provide valuable information on the winter bird populations of the Potomac River. Each party of counters will be asked to take responsibility for at least a 1-mile segment of the Canal, but hopefully our volunteers will take on longer stretches, either on foot or by bicycle, depending on weather and towpath conditions.

Mid-Winter Bird Counts have been slowly growing in popularity in Maryland since their beginnings in Allegany and Howard Counties in 1986. Today these counts are carried out in at least 10 Maryland Counties in order to test the hypothesis that bird populations in mid-winter differ significantly from those seen during the annual Christmas Bird Count Season. The C&O Canal Survey will cover parts of the District of Columbia and the edge of Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties and may provide an interesting look at sapsucker, creeper, and Pileated Woodpecker abundance along an extended stretch of excellent habitat for these wintering birds, along with the other resident and wintering species both along the Canal and in the adjacent Potomac River.

If you're interested in participating, contact Peter Vankevich at (202) 547-4523, or by e-mail at pvank@cais.net, or Mark Titus, at (202) 342-5556. For area assignments in Allegany County, contact Ray Kiddy of the Allegany Chapter of MOS at (301) 777-7391;for Washington and Frederick County areas, contact Dianne Ingram at the C&O Canal National Park Headquarters, (301) 842—3279; for Montgomery County contact Bill Wendell at (301) 540-7382. Results of the count and other information will be posted on the Maryland Ornithological State Web Site (http://www.MDBirds.org) or on the web site of the New Columbia Audubon Society (http://www.audubon.org/chapter/dc/newcolumbia).

PIF Award Nominations Sought

by Fred Fallon

Do you know someone who's done something "bird-brained" lately, or who's "gone wild" for the birds? Maryland Partners in Flight (PIF) would like to recognize individuals and organizations who have made a substantial contribution to landbird conservation in the State. We are calling for nominations for the first annual PIF Bird Conservation Recognition Awards. Awards will be presented to either individuals, agencies, organizations or companies in one of the following three categories:

1) Non-industrial Private Landowner

2) Public Land Manager (*Wildlife Management Area, State Forest, State Park, National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area, Military Base, etc.*)

3) Private Land Manager (*Wood Products Industry, Agricultural Industry, Nature Preserve, etc.*)

To be considered for Maryland PIF Bird Conservation Recognition Awards, nominees and their projects or programs should meet the following **criteria**:

1) Accomplishments should produce tangible benefits to birds in Maryland, through land preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, or increased public awareness and community appreciation of bird resources.

2) Nominees' actions and accomplishments should demonstrate leadership, innovative thinking, or the application of progressive concepts in conservation planning and management.

3) Actions should be generally consistent with those prescribed in **Management Guidelines for the Conservation of Landbirds in Maryland**, a document produced by the Maryland PIF Habitat Management Committee.

Help us recognize those who have made a contribution to birds in Maryland by submitting a letter of nomination. Nominations should include the name of the individual or agency/organization/company being nominated (as well as a responsible individual); the nominee's job title, address and telephone number; the nominator's name, address and telephone number; and a description of the nominee's actions or accomplishments and their benefit to birds in Maryland. Supporting documentation (newspaper articles, reports, etc.) may accompany the nomination, but are not required. Nominations must be received no later than July 1, 1999 to be considered for the 1999 awards. Nominations received after the deadline will be considered for the 2000 awards. Letters can be sent by mail or e-mail to:

MD-PIF Habitat Management Committee
P.O. Box 2104
Bowie., MD 20718
or: krambo@eaglenet.com

MOS State Board Meeting
Saturday, September 12, 1998

Officers & Committees In attendance:
Norm Saunders, President
Paul Zucker, Budget Committee Chair
Tom Loomis, Bylaws Committee Chair
Lou DeMouy, Conference Committee Chair
Paula Ecker, for Education Committee
Joy Wheeler, Library Committee Chair
David Harvey, Nominations Committee Chair
Dave Brinker, Research Committee Chair
Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Committee Chair
Isa Sieracki, for Scholarship Committee

Chapters:
Allegany – no representatives
Washington – Ann Mitchell, Dave Weesner, Betty Wolfe
Frederick – no representatives
Carroll — Maureen Harvey
Baltimore – no representatives
Harford – no representatives
Cecil – Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Talbot – no representatives
Howard – Mary-Jo Betts, Darius Ecker, Mike Kerwin
Montgomery – Sam Freiberg, Linda Friedland, Janet Millenson, Rick Sussman
Anne Arundel – Al Haury, Larry Zoller
Patuxent – Chan Robbins
Jug Bay – Dale Johnson
Kent – no representatives
Caroline – no representatives
Wicomico – no representatives

N.B. Decisions by the Board are marked in **BOLDFACE Type**. Action items, those which require that the various Chapters put their minds to a problem, are noted in ***bold italic type.***

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Norm Saunders, who thanked the Washington Chapter for their hospitality. Washington Chapter President David Weesner took a few moments to welcome all attendees and to let them know about various activities taking place around the County that day. Norm welcomed all new and old faces to the first board meeting of the year, mentioned the importance of regular meeting attendance, and noted that ***he would like nominations for State-level awards for people who had been of significant service to the State organization.***

June Minutes — The June minutes were examined and the following changes requested: page 2, Education Committee report—name spelling: Sybil Williams, not Cybil; page 3, Nominations Committee report—Dave Harvey should be listed as the Chairman; page 3, New Business – "and" in line 2 should be changed to "an". **It was MOVED that, subject to these revisions, the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.**

New Chairs & Vacancies — The President reported on Committee Chair vacancies. He noted that Sybil Williams, who had originally agreed to take on the Education Committee, had been forced to back down due to the demands of a new job. Maud Banks of the Howard County Chapter will be the Chair of the Education Committee during the coming year. Fran Saunders (At Large member) has volunteered to take on the duties of the Long-Range Planning Committee from retiring Jo Solem, and Jean Fry of the Harford Chapter has agreed to take on the Scholarship Committee from Isa Sieracki.

No replacement has yet been found for retiring Executive Secretary Will Tress. ***The President asked that all Chapter Presidents think about possible individuals from their chapters who might be interested in this demanding but rewarding position with the State organization.***

Finally, the President noted that Leanne Pemburn has submitted her resignation as Chair/Coordinator of the May Count. She has expressed a willingness to finish the coordination of the data collection for the 1998 count but wants to be replaced before the next count rolls around. Norm Saunders suggested that it might be time to expand this role to include coordination of all of the recurring counts now being carried out by various MOS Chapters—mid-Winter, Fall, and May counts—to ensure that the data all be published in **MD Birdlife** and that none of it get lost for posterity. ***He asked that Presidents announce this vacancy in their Chapters.***

Norm also noted that the Chairs of the Conservation, Education, and Sanctuary Committees have asked that all Chapters have a representative on these committees.

Having submitted his report on the status of Committee vacancies, Norm then noted that the Bylaws require the Board to ratify the slate of Committee Chairs at the beginning of each membership year. **A MOTION was made from the floor that the Committee Chairs be approved by the Board, and the motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.**

Conference items – Lou DeMouy first handed out the evaluation summary (based on 101 responses) from the 1998 Garrett County Conference:

Location	3.9
Cost	2.9
Accommodations	3.4
Food	3.4
Field Trips	3.8
Research Papers	3.8
Banquet Speaker	3.3
Art Exhibit	3.5
Pre-conference Publicity	2.7
Clarity of Brochure	3.0
Overall	3.5

Scale: 0 = None to 4 = A Lot

Lou then noted that the revenue from the 1999 Conference would be handled a bit differently than in 1998, where the decision to donate the money from the Silent Auction to a local chapter of The Nature Conservancy was taken by the local organizing committee. Lou noted that in 1999, ***the Board would be solicited for ideas regarding the use of the Silent Auction and Raffle revenues and the ultimate distribution would be approved by the Board at the March 1999 Board meeting. He also noted that the 1999 organizing committee was just getting underway and he solicited the Board for ideas regarding a speaker at the Solomons Conference.***

Finally, with regard to the 2000 Conference, Lou asked the Board to review the pros and cons of Washington College, Kent County vs. the Tidewater Inn, in Talbot County with him. It was clear after a very short discussion that there were various points of view regarding whether the conference should be held in dormitories or at a conference center, when the conference should be scheduled, and other issues. ***Lou asked that the Board think over the options presented (see following) and come to the December Board Meeting ready to discuss the options.*** Here are the alternatives:

a. In late June or July (or possibly August) at Washington College in Kent County (a few local hotels/motels are available as alternatives

September Board Meeting Minutes

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for those who don't like dorm life).

b. The same time period, (to hopefully catch the southbound migration of shorebirds, terns, etc.) but at a conference center in Easton, Talbot County. Alternative lodgings at a range of different prices are available in Easton.

c. Eastern Shore but at some earlier time period (too early rules out the College).

d. Eastern Shore but in September (this also rules out Washington College).

MOS Insurance Update – Norm Saunders noted that a $1 million Directors and Officers Policy had been purchased, significantly increasing the coverage of MOS officers from liability and malfeasance suits. Mike Kerwin, President of the Howard Chapter and an expert in insurance coverage noted that the Board additionally needed to promulgate as part of the minutes of this Board Meeting, an indemnification statement. **He MOVED that the following statement be accepted by the Board:**

"The Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. (MOS) will indemnify any Officer, Board Member, or Member acting on behalf of the MOS for any activity, act, or actions on behalf of MOS, up to the amount of the insurance policies held by the organization covering such actions."

The motion was SECONDED and was approved by the Board.

Meeting with ABA and ANS – Norm reported on a meeting with Paul Green and Daphne Gemmill, both representing the American Birding Association. Also attending was John Bjerke, President of the Audubon Naturalist Society. The purpose of the meeting was to elicit information from local birding clubs about how ABA might be of assistance in their programs. ***Norm sent the questionnaire provided by Paul Green to all MOS Chapter Presidents this past summer, urging them to respond for their individual Chapters.***

MOS Field Card – The old field card was co-published by both MOS and ANS, presumably to take advantage of quantity discounts from the printer. Norm Saunders noted that John Bjerke had approached him this past summer asking that we enter into the same agreement again. Some members of the Board felt that since the field card is wholly a product of MOS Committee activities, that we should say as much on the card and simply offer to sell copies to ANS. Others said that since we make use of the Voice of the Naturalist, we should repay that use by including ANS as co-producers of the card. Norm Saunders suggested that a compromise solution would be to mention the ANS and the Voice of the Naturalist on the field card but make it clear at the same time that the card was a result of the work of the MOS. **The Board voted to give Norm and the Executive Committee the authority to negotiate with ANS on the relevant wording on the new card over the coming months so that the new field card could be available as soon as possible to the chapters.** Further, the consensus of the Board was for a pale yellow or pale buff colored card stock for the card and the feeling was high that the font chosen for the card be as large and as legible as possible for aging eyes. The most vocal of those commenting on the proposed format of the new field card will be included in the review group, along with the Executive Committee and others.

The new card is to be based on the Official List of Maryland Birds produced by the MD/DC Records Committee, on personal communications with the Chair of that Committee, and on the 7th Edition of the AOU Check-List of North American Birds. Price per 100 cards to the Chapters and to ANS will likely run in the neighborhood of $7.00.

MOS Things Committee – Norm noted that during the summer he had asked Karen Morley, Fran Saunders, and Mike Callahan to form an *ad hoc* Committee on Things—that is, on items such as t-shirts, decals, patches, hats, etc that could be made available to MOS members who wished to advertise their pride in MOS. ***Karen et al will report on their recommendations to the Board at the December meeting. In the intervening months, if any of the Board have ideas about such promotional items, please communicate them to one of the ad hoc Committee.***

Agenda – Norm noted that during the summer, when he had called all of the Committee Chairs, several had mentioned to him that they wished there were fixed agendas for each of the Board Meetings. The feeling was that they would be more likely to attend the meetings if such an agenda were available prior to the meeting. To do that, Norm noted that he needs the help of all those who want to raise an issue to the Board. ***He asked that advance agenda items and supporting material be delivered to him at least 3 weeks in advance of each Board Meeting so they could be sent to all Board Members in a timely fashion.***

Officers' Reports:

Vice President—no report, not present

Secretary—no report, not present

Treasurer—not present, report submitted earlier. Jeff has completed and submitted the IRS 990 to both the Federal and Maryland governments. Copies are available to anyone who needs it. He is also putting together a package of material to forward to Jerry Cotton for the annual audit of the MOS books.

Executive Secretary—not present, report submitted earlier. Will Tress noted that the bulk of the Frances Covington bequest to the MOS has now arrived. An advance distribution of $5,000 was received several months ago and the current check is for $27,272. The estate administrators say that an additional amount is likely in about a year, once the IRS has reviewed the estate tax documents. Our share of the remaining balance is likely to be quite small. As background, this gift was made to MOS in memory of Etta Stem Wedge, a former member of the Baltimore Chapter of MOS. There are no apparent stipulations as to how the MOS should use this bequest. Joy Wheeler has expressed an interest in writing up a note about the bequest and the individuals involved for publication in one of the MOS publications. ***Norm Saunders asked the Board to begin thinking about ways we can***

September Board Meeting Minutes

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allocate the bequest and come to the December Board Meeting prepared to discuss those ideas.

Past President—no report, not present

Other Committee Reports:

Audit—not present, no report

Budget—no report at this meeting

Bylaws—Tom Loomis reported on the status of the Manual of Operations (all proposed changes now accepted and in place) and and of the Bylaws (three proposals accepted by the Board, awaiting ratification at the Annual Meeting of the membership). About five typographical errors in the Manual of Operations were pointed out by the Board. ***Tom asked that Board Members with other proposed changes get in touch with him as soon as possible.***

Conference—reported above

Conservation—not present, no report

Education—not present. Norm Saunders reported that Maud's first priority was to rebuild the Education Committee and ***he urged each Chapter to find a representative for that Committee.***

Gifts—not present, no report

Investments—not present, no report

Library—Joy Wheeler took a few moments to familiarize the Board with the status of the MOS gift to Marylanders of the ***Birds of North America*** series and the ***Birds of the World*** publications.

Long-range Planning—not present, report submitted earlier. In her report, Fran Saunders noted that her first task was to get a representative sample of Marylanders for the committee. She has currently found members from Allegany, Montgomery, Calvert, and Cecil Counties and would like to find a member from the Eastern Shore. Her second accomplishment of the summer was to compile a history of the Committee since its inception in 1975. Copies are available to interested readers. Finally, she and her committee are working to come up with a reasonable statement of purpose for MOS. Until such a statement is agreed upon by MOS, it is impossible to decide whether or not reasonable progress is being made in the long term to meet those purposes. ***Copies of an early purpose statement were distributed and comments solicited from the Board before the December meeting.*** The earlier Purpose statement follows:

(a) To study and record the observations of bird life in Maryland and vicinity and to collate the scientific data furnished by bird students.

(b) To publish and distribute at established times the official publication of the Corporation.

(c) To promote the knowledge, development, protection and conservation of bird life and natural resources.

(d) To establish and maintain such scientific and educational projects as nature trails, exhibits, tours, camps, and nature sanctuaries.

(e) To encourage the organization and operation of affiliated groups in sympathy with aforesaid aims.

(f) To cooperate, as occasion prompts, with national and state ornithological organizations and conservation agencies, and with private associations devoted to such interests and to conservation and education in the field of natural resources.

(g) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions, and to develop and maintain a library relative to the subjects mentioned above and related matters.

(h) To publish and distribute documents as a means of disseminating information about the subjects mentioned above and related matters.

(i) To acquire by purchase, deed, lease, bequest, gift, grant or otherwise, and to sell, lease, mortgage, improve, develop, invest in, take, hold and grant title to and otherwise deal in, dispose of and use real and personal property, and any interest therein, of every kind and wheresoever situated, for the purposes of the Corporation.

(j) In general to do any and all of the things above set forth and such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and purposes of the Corporation.

MD Birdlife—Chan noted that the December issue of MB was at the printer with another two issues awaiting last-minute changes before they too go to press. He praised Janet Millenson of the Montgomery County Chapter for the assistance she has been able to provide him in the often laborious tasks of typing submissions prior to editing.

MD Yellowthroat—***Norm noted that the deadlines for the November/December issue are September 25 for Chapter activities and October 1 for all other submissions.***

Publicity—not present, no report. Norm handed out copies of the last MOS Press Release compliments of theMontgomery County Chapter, regarding the establishment of the Claudia Wilds Memorial Library at Black Hill Regional Park. ***Norm Saunders urged chapters and committees with important news to get them to him or to Mike so that Press Releases could continue to be released to advertise the accomplishments of the organization.***

Records—not present, no report

Research—Dave Brinker noted that the final work on approval of two separate grant proposals was currently nearing completion.

Sanctuary—Dotty Mumford told the Board that the Fall workday at Irish Grove was scheduled for Oct 31. ***Get the word out to all the chapters!*** She further discussed the findings of Doug Forsel, a F&WS staffer who had reviewed the state of Carey Run Sanctuary. He had found significant understory damage by overbrowsing deer and recommended that the herd be culled significantly. No one at the meeting objected to the idea of opening the sanctuary for deer hunting but asked Dotty to make sure that members were adequately informed ahead of time so that they would avoid the Sanctuary during periods when hunting was underway.

Scholarships—Outgoing Chair Isa Sieracki said that nine scholarships had been awarded in 1998 and that with any luck at all 10 or more could be awarded in 1999 (this was before the stock market crash of the past few weeks). Isa was given an ovation by the Board for her outstanding work on the Committee.

Atlas—Chan Robbins reported that he was attempting to arrange a meeting of the North American Atlas Committee to coordinate a set of Atlas data collection dates for all the Northeastern U.S. States. As soon as the data years are set, advance planning for Maryland can begin, specifically with regard to funding and selection of a paid

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coordinator.

Calendar—not present, no report

County Lists—not present. ***Phil Davis has asked that each County name a person responsible for maintaining a count of birds on the county checklist in order for him to keep his listing records straight.***

EFM Coordinator—not present, report submitted by Carol Jelich prior to the meeting:

Report on EFM to MOS Board

September 12, 1998

1. EFM campaign progress report - gross revenues to date (total, EFM):

1996 campaigns: $112,508.78

1997 campaigns: $ 42,000.28 (current, not complete)

2. MOS Receipts:

a. Three checks totaling $1813.86 were received from EFM and forwarded by mail to Jeff Metter. Spreadsheets showing distribution of receipts among the EFM members are available for review.

b. Campaign proceeds - net revenues to date (total, MOS):

1996 campaigns: $4,124.72

1997 campaigns: $1,595.10

c. Thank you letters have been sent to 16 individuals identified as donors in the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

3. EFM meeting report

No meetings have been held since the last report.

4. EFM Distributions

At the last Board meeting, the question was raised of how EFM money is distributed to MOS and other member organizations. The funds are distributed as follows:

* Donations can be designated by a contributor to go to a specific EFM member organization, such as MOS. In these cases, the entire amount, after expenses, is disbursed to MOS or other designated member.

* Receipts that are not designated for a particular member organization are divided equally among the 19 members of EFM.

* EFM deducts 20 percent of all funds received through campaigns to cover administrative expenses. These include office space, a part-time paid staff position of Executive Director, costs to conduct campaigns, and other administrative expenses.

5. EFM Committee Assignment

Carol will be moving from the Corporate Partnership Committee (which works to identify potential fund-raising sites) to the Campaign Committee (which conducts campaigns in the workplace.

Insurance—see report, above

Membership Data Base—no report

May Count—not present, no report. See above for need for new coordinator.

Nominations—Dave Harvey reports that the committee has returned to full strength with the addition of Pat Wilson from the Kent Chapter.

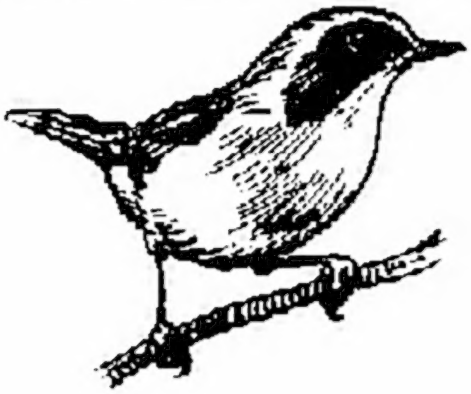
Seasons Reports—not present, no report

Speakers List—Al Haury reported that Steve Hult is in the process of rebuilding the speakers list from scratch. *He asks that any chapters with ideas about speakers come to the December meeting prepared to discuss them as inclusions on the list.*

Other Old Business: none

Other New Business: none

A MOTION was made at 11:45 am to adjourn the meeting. The motion was APPROVED unanimously by those present.



The MOS Yellowthroats Are Going to the World Series ... Again !

16th Annual World Series of Birding

Earlier this year the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) sent a team to the 1998 World Series of Birding (WSB). From midnight to midnight, Saturday May 9, 1998, our team participated in birdathon history. For twenty-four cold, windy, and rainy hours, the Maryland Yellowthroats, as the team is called, birded New Jersey's Cape May County hotspots looking for as many species as possible. Championed by captains Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, the team tallied 153 birds to place 11th overall and 3rd in the Limited Geographical Area competition! They made a splash with their distinguished MD Yellowthroat/MOS hats.

If you missed all the fun and excitement this year, plan to join us on May 15, 1999! Once again, MOS will sponsor a WSB team, captained by MOS members Hal and Lynn. Corporate and individual supporters are needed to help make this a successful event. Let's talk a bit about the team and about the WSB and how you can ensure the success of this effort.

Hal and Lynn, captains of the Maryland Yellowthroats, need no introduction to the Maryland birding community. For those of you not familiar with them, Hal and Lynn, Anne Arundel County residents, are life-long Maryland birders and Hal has led birding trips all over the country for MOS and for the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). He has competed in five World Series competitions on the National Geographic team and in five more on a team sponsored by Swarovski Optics. Lynn works in the Wildlife and Heritage Division of the MD Department of Natural Resources and is a former Big Day record holder in Maryland. She too has competed in 5 prior World Series of Birding events, sponsored by the Swarovski Optics Company. We are honored to have them on our team! An additional one or two team members will be selected by the captains. We will let you know who they are when the line-up is finalized.

Why are we sponsoring this team? First, for the sheer joy of rooting for the home team in the premier competitive birding event in the United States. Second, and just as critical, to raise money from donations and pledges to support the on-going Education, Research, and Sanctuary programs of the Society, programs that contribute to the environmental well-being of the State of Maryland. In 1998, 57 WSB teams from around the country collected over $500,000 overall. MOS entered the field quite late, but we nevertheless cleared $1,700 after expenses. The 16th annual event promises to be even more successful, but we need your help.

How can you contribute? Well, we are soliciting pledges and donations from members and other individuals interested in our work. We are also looking for business supporters. All income from donations and pledges will go to support the on-going Education, Research, and Sanctuary programs of the Society. Most importantly, since the Maryland Ornithological Society is a registered 501.c(3) nonprofit organization , all of your donations are fully tax-deductible.

How MOS Members and Chapters Can Help Support the MD Yellowthroats

1. Make an individual pledge or fixed contribution.

2. Ask your chapter to make a pledge or fixed contribution.

3. Solicit pledges and fixed contributions from friends, neighbors and family members.

4. Talk to neighborhood businesses, that may be interested in supporting the program. Remember to tell them that major supporters receive free advertising on our MOS State Web Site.

You can also obtain the promotion flyers printed in this issues of the Yellowthroat on the Web Site. They will also be available at the next MOS State Board of Directors meeting, but don't wait until then to start your campaign. We are getting a head start this year to obtain maximum exposure for the team.

We are also looking for individuals or chapters to help us provide hats and jackets for the team this year. Many of you will remember the MD Yellowthroat team hats from last year. These were a big hit at the MOS Conference where the extra hats were auctioned to the highest bidders. Bids collected totally covered the cost of the hats, allowing maximum funding for the environmental causes. Once again a few hats will be auctioned. For the first time, however, the team will have jackets to help polish their image and promote MOS. Hey, what's a team without a proper uniform? Separate contributions are requested for the jackets. If there are extras, one may be donated to the Conference raffle. Let Norm Saunders know if you are interested in helping out.

A sample business solicitation form appears on the facing page. For the most up-to-date version, contact Norm Saunders!

MOS 1999 World Series of Birding Pledge Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

- My outright contribution of $_____ to the MOS World Series of Birding Team is enclosed.

- My pledge of $_____ per species seen (expected to range between 150 and 200 species, we will contact you with the actual count by May 31).

Please mail this pledge form (and your check made payable to the Maryland Ornithological Society if you are making an outright contribution) to: Norm Saunders, MOS President, 1261 Cavendish Drive, Colesville, MD 20905-7030. Pledges may also be submitted to Norm via e-mail at: osprey@ari.net

THANK YOU !

The Maryland Yellowthroats are Going to the World Series !!!!!

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is sending a team to the 1999 World Series of Birding: from midnight to midnight, Saturday May 15, 1999, and we need the support of businesses such as yours. The MOS team is co-captained by Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson in their attempt to find more species than any other team in Cape May County (Single New Jersey County category). Hal and Lynn, Anne Arundel County residents, are life-long Maryland birders and Hal has led birding trips all over the country for MOS and for the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). He has competed in five World Series on the National Geographic team and in five more on a team sponsored by Swarovski Optics, so we are indeed privileged to have him on our team! Lynn works in the Wildife and Heritage Division of the MD Department of Natural Resources and is a former Big Day record holder in Maryland. She too has competed in 5 prior World Series of Birding events, sponsored by the Swarovski Optics Company. The final members of the team haven't yet been named.

The Maryland Ornithological Society will also be soliciting pledges and donations from our membership and others interested in our work. All income from donations and pledges will go to support the on-going Education, Research, and Sanctuary programs of the Society. Most importantly, the Maryland Ornithological Society is a registered 501.c(3) nonprofit organization—your donations are fully tax-deductible.

Businesses can support our team at three different levels:

The Orioles Level

What you do: Donate $500 or more in support of the 1998 World Series of Birding Team and the worthwhile causes supported by that team.

What we do:

1. A full-page ad for your company, content of your specification, in an upcoming issue of the Maryland Yellowthroat (a $120 value) plus top-of-the page listing in the World Series of Birding Supporters List, which will appear in the next 3 issues of the Maryland Yellowthroat.

2. Six months prominent listing on the MOS State web page.

3. Mention of your company in all MOS Press Releases regarding the World Series of Birding Team.

4. Should you wish to attend, two (2) tickets to the World Series of Birding Awards Brunch at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, NJ, on May 10. Rub shoulders with the stars!

The Cardinals Level

What you do: Donate $250 in support of the 1998 World Series of Birding Team and the worthwhile causes supported by that team.

What we do:

1. Prominent listing in the World Series of Birding Supporters List, which will appear in the next 3 issues of the Maryland Yellowthroat.

2. Six months prominent listing on the MOS State web page.

3. Mention of your company in all MOS Press Releases regarding the World Series of Birding Team.

The Blue Jays Level

What you do: Donate $100 in support of the 1998 World Series of Birding Team and the worthwhile causes supported by that team.

What we do:

1. Listing in the World Series of Birding Supporters List, which will appear in the next 3 issues of the Maryland Yellowthroat.

2. Six months listing as a World Series of Birding Supporter on the MOS State web page.

If you would like further information about the MOS, its programs, or its World Series of Birding Team, please contact:

Norm Saunders, MOS President
(202) 606-5701 (days); (301) 989-9035 (evenings); *osprey@ari.net* (e-mail)

In this issue:

1999 Conference Materials

Marshall in Texas, Part 2

Exciting Board Meeting Minutes

New MOS Field Cards

A Letter From Mark Hoffman

. . . and much, much more!

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The copy deadline for the March/April issue of the Yellowthroat is January 25 for chapter activities and February 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for March-May to:
Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:
Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5701

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